

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189392

TOSEC 1

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ABIDJAN, ACCRA,
COTONOU, OUAGADOUGOU, NIAMEY, PARIS, TEL AVIV, SEPTEMBER
22, 1973 IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 1788

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TO, IS

SUBJ: TOGO BREAKS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

REF: LOME 1781

1. COMMUNIQUE ON TOGOLESE REPTURE WITH ISRAEL (REFTEL), WHICH
WAS ISSUED AFTERNOON 21 SEPTEMBER FOLLOWS:

"CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF RPT,

"AFTER HAVING REVIEWED SITUATION PREVAILING IN MIDDLE EAST,
SITUATION WHICH RESULTS ESSENTIALLY FROM SO-CALLED SIX-DAY
WAR AND FROM NON-APPLICATION OF SC RES 242 OF 22 NOV 1967,
RES WHICH DEMANDS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WITHDRAWAL OF ARMED
ISRAELI FORCES FROM ARAB TERRITORIES (DES TERRITORIES ARABES)
OCCUPIED IN COURSE OF THIS SIX-DAY WAR,

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"CONSIDERING THAT OCCUPATION OF A TERRITORY BY FORCE

CONSTITUTES VERY DANGEROUS PRECEDENT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

"CONSIDERING THAT ON 12 SEPTEMBER CHIEF OF STATE EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL TOGO'S CONCERN IN VIEW OF PROLONGED OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES AND THAT RESPONSE OF ISRAELI FONMIN ABBA EBAN TO HIS TOGOLESE COUNTERPART JOACHIM HUNLEDE IS NOT OF NATURE TO ALLAY CONCERNS OF GOT,

"DECIDES TO BREAK, AS OF THIS DAY, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL."

2. TOGOLESE RADIO IS EXPLAINING BREAK AS RESULT UNSATISFACTORY ISRAELI RESPONSE TO TOGOLESE WARNING. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR RASH, ON WHOM I CALLED THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS MY REGRET OVER TOGOLESE ACTION, SAYS HE DELIVERED EBAN REPLY TO HUNLEDE ON 20 SEPTEMBER. REPLY WAS ESSENTIALLY THAT WHILE ISRAEL ACCEPTED SC RES 242, IT COULD ONLY BE APPLIED IN CONTEXT OF AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. ISRAEL COULD NOT UNILATERALLY WITHDRAW FROM TERRITORIES WHILE ARABS REFUSED DISCUSS SETTLEMENT WITH THEM. EBAN OFFERED TO MEET HUNLEDE IN NEW YORK AT UNGA NEXT MONTH AND GIVE HIM FURTHER EXPLANATION. ACCORDING RASH, HUNLEDE AGREED TO MEET WITH EBAN AND GAVE NO INDICATION DURING INTERVIEW THAT RUPTURE IMMINENT. ON 21 SEPTEMBER, WHEN HUNLEDE SUMMONED RASH TO INFORM HIM OF DECISION BREAK RELATIONS, HUNLEDE, WHO IS NOTED FOR HIS CROCODILE TEARS, ATTEMPTED DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF PERSONALLY FROM DECISION, SAYING HUNLEDE, THE CHRISTIAN, REMAINED GREAT FRIEND OF ISRAEL AND DEPLORED RUPTURE. HOWEVER, HUNLEDE, THE STATESMAN, HAD TO CARRY IT OUT. RASH SAYS HE MADE FIRM PROTEST AGAINST RUPTURE AS TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED ACTION.

3. LIMITED TOGOLESE COMMENT I HAVE HEARD THUS FAR IS HIGHLY UNFAVORABLE TO RUPTURE WHICH IS CONSIDERED MOTIVATED SOLELY BY HOPE OF GENEROUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM LIBYA. THIS GROUP OF TOGOLESE TENDS TO BE STRONGLY CATHOLIC GROUP WHICH HAS NOT ONLY MAINTAINED CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS WITH ISRAEL AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES, BUT WHICH IS ALWAYS QUITE READY, WITHIN LIMITS OF DISCRETION REQUIRED BY UNLIMITED POLICE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT, TO CRITICIZE REGIME. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

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WITH MOST TO LOSE WILL PROBABLY BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT SAYING SO, I THINK THEY WILL NEVERTHELESS AGREE THAT RUPTURE'S SOLE MOTIVATION IS FINANCIAL. EVEN GOT'S MOST ORDENT TOGOLESE SUPPORTERS WILL NO DOUBT CONSIDER ACTION AT BEST PRAGMATIC. CYNICAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAVE TAKEN FINANCIAL MOTIVATION VIEW EXCLUSIVELY DESPITE GOT EFFORTS PLACE ACTION UNDER LEGAL GUISE OF UPHOLDING UN. ONE WESTERN AMBASSADOR - BETTER NOT IDENTIFIED - WHO SAW PRESIDENT ON STREET LAST NIGHT, TOLD ME HE ASKED HIM HOW

MUCH TOGO GOT FOR RUPTURE. HE SAYS PRESIDENT, OBVIOUSLY
ANGRY, TOLD HIM TO COME SEE HIM MONDAY MORNING, PROBABLY
TO BAWL HIM OUT.
DICKINSON UNQUOTE RUSH

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